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AIRGRAM

HGG 4781

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

POL 23 GUAT

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HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department of State

INFO : USCINCSO FOR POLAD, DOD, Amembassies MANAGUA
SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

SUBJECT : Weekly Internal Security Report

REF :

REVIEWED BY *Ali* DATE *OCT 1968*
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

1. The upcoming municipal elections and the party maneuverings continued to overshadow developments of a purely internal security nature but there was an increase in the latter. Nothing in the week's incidents, however, indicates a fundamental change in the posture of either the GOG or the insurgents.

2. There were a number of indications, however, bearing out the contention that the guerrillas are still around and active and have by no means simply faded from the scene. For example there were two armed clashes between guerrillas and security forces reported. The first took place on June 25 in the Department of Izabal when an Army patrol from Puerto Barrios, acting on information that guerrillas had been sighted near Morales, went in search of them. The patrol came across the guerrilla camp near El Choco where the insurgents opened fire on the troops. In the ensuing battle two soldiers and one guerrilla were killed. The second encounter occurred on June 26 in Las Trojes, Amatitlan, Department of Guatemala. Reportedly the Judicial Police raided a house in which they suspected clandestine activity was being conducted. According to reports the occupants of the house answered the police order that they surrender with a fusillade of bullets. Two of the insurgents were killed as the police returned the fire, and two more were captured. Three others are thought to have escaped. A cache of arms was confiscated.

3. Another incident which attracted considerable attention was the kidnapping on June 24 of Gabriel de la FUENTE Escaler, 22, the son of a well known businessman. According to reports, his abductors are asking the family for a considerable sum of money

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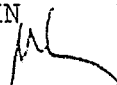
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4. Also of interest was the explosion of 2 bombs in the capital on the night of June 23: one blasted the date of the Zone 10 residence of the Brazilian Ambassador and the second damaged a jeep of the UN mission to Guatemala which was parked in Zone 1.

5. There were also several shootings of possible political significance reported from various parts of the country but details on them are sketchy.

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